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## READINESS

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HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSION



**Joe Courtney**  
**Congress of the United States**  
 2nd District, Connecticut

August 5, 2010

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
 Chairman  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street, SW  
 Room 8-B201  
 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell  
 Commissioner  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street, SW  
 Room 8-002  
 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker  
 Commissioner  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street, SW  
 Room 8-A204  
 Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
 Commissioner  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street, SW  
 Room 8-B115  
 Washington, DC 20554

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The Honorable Mignon Clyburn  
 Commissioner  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street, SW  
 Room 8-A302  
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners,


Following the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Comcast v FCC and pending action by Congress, the telecommunications industry should not move forward with unilateral action that would set precedent on the issue of content regulation and "net neutrality". That is why it is very troubling that Google and Verizon are attempting to craft an agreement that would set precedent prior to clear regulations that will ensure a solid foundation and clear governance to enable future expansion of the internet.

Reports have suggested that the potential agreement between these two large entities, with their shared venture into the wireless market, would give preferential treatment to content – undoing the long standing strength of the internet. For years, the internet service providers have extended the same treatment of content belonging to entrepreneurs, small business start ups, and creative minds to big businesses, maintainers of servers, and even their competitors. The internet has become a resource where minimal interference and equal treatment of content by service providers has allowed for a meritocracy of everything from software and business models, to news media and entertainment and, ultimately, the free exchange of information and ideas.

We all want a well-maintained internet that is reliable, that can be expanded to the more than 14 million Americans without access to broadband, and that is affordable and accessible to all Americans. While the FCC has recently finished its National Broadband Plan to address these challenges, the issue of content regulation may be the most controversial. However, for America to truly be competitive and capture the full potential of the internet's expansion, it will be important that we establish clear principles for access and content regulation that maintains its openness and neutrality.

As the FCC continues its dialogue with a broad range of stakeholders on this issue, including industry, consumer groups and others interested in the future of the internet I ask that you keep my concerns in mind. It is my hope that Congress, working with the FCC, can provide the guidance and clarification to all parties which will support private investments in the internet infrastructure while maintaining the balance of neutrality and fairness that has been the hallmark of the internet.

Sincerely,

  
JOSEPH COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



The Honorable Joseph D. Courtney  
United States House of Representatives

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NOTES/COMMENTS

Call Bret Kaptur at DC office  
with questions.



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

March 4, 2011

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
215 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Courtney:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me in your letter regarding the Commission's open Internet proceeding.

At its December 21, 2010 meeting, the Commission adopted a strong and balanced framework to preserve Internet openness and freedom. After fourteen months, more than 200,000 commenters, and hundreds of discussions with stakeholders, this action provides much needed certainty to the marketplace. I believe that these high-level rules of the road – which received broad support from across the Internet ecosystem – will be a powerful spur for innovation and investment, and will strengthen the Internet job creation engine.

I appreciate your interest in this very important matter. I look forward to working further with you on a broad range of telecommunications issues, including spectrum policy, universal service reform, and the deployment of a public safety wireless broadband network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Julius Genachowski